



Leesburg District News



Kristen C. Umstatt
Leesburg District Supervisor



Dear Leesburg Resident,

Early in-person voting, no excuse required, is available now at the Leesburg Office of Elections, 750 Miller Drive, Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. More information about early in-person voting or vote by mail is featured in the community information section below. Please visit the County's [election website](#) and remember to vote. Thank you.

Child Care Program Update

Following the launch of the child care program with lower enrollment than expected, the Board directed staff to reevaluate the program and propose changes at the September 15th Board business meeting. The proposed changes to the program include:

- Capping the number of children in the program at 600. This would eliminate the need for the use of library and community and recreation center locations. Because the Ashburn and Rust libraries are not needed for the program now, they reopened to the public on September 11th.
- Reducing program fees. The proposed new monthly rate for the full-day program is 70% of the current rate; the proposed new monthly rate for the school day program is 50% of the current rate.
- Increasing the flexibility of the program by offering it for two or three days a week in addition to the current five-day program.

You can see the details of the proposed changes in the [staff report](#). Registration for the K-6 Distance Learning Child Care Program continues on a rolling basis until all spots are filled. Parents who are interested in the service may find program details and a link to register below.

[Child Care Program Registration website](#)

Excessive Noise from Firearms Discharge

At the September 15th Board business meeting, I submitted a [Board Member Initiative](#) to evaluate the legal framework and enforcement potential of regulating excessive sound originating from the discharge of firearms near residential areas and report back to the Board with findings and recommendations to include potential amendments to the codified ordinances of Loudoun County, where appropriate.

For years, the Board and Sheriff have received complaints about noise from recreational shooting. Currently, there is nothing in our codified ordinance to regulate excessive noise from the lawful discharge of firearms. The policy statement in the County's Codified Ordinance 654.02 (Excessive Sound in Residential Areas and Dwellings) includes the following language:

"The making, creation or maintenance of certain audible and discernable sounds are hazardous to the public health, welfare, peace and safety, as well as the quality of life of the citizens of Loudoun County. It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors to prevent such sounds, while appropriately preserving each citizen's First Amendment rights, and to ensure the people of the County are provided with an environment free from the type of sound that may jeopardize the public health, welfare, peace and safety, or degrade the quality of life."

Specifically exempted from Codified Ordinance 654.02 is the "lawful discharge of firearms."

Recently, the noise from recreational shooting in the rural area adjacent to the Town of Leesburg has alarmed Town residents living along the Leesburg bypass. In the rural areas of the County, outdoor shooting on private property is allowed, regardless of the activity's impact of noise on nearby subdivisions. There are approximately 500 homes along the western side of the Leesburg bypass where residents are hearing frequent rapid gunfire occurring for extended periods of time and after dark. I submitted this initiative to protect constituents who are disturbed by the amount of shooting in close proximity to their homes where it sounds like it is in their yards. We would work with staff to limit the scope and protect Second Amendment rights.

Unfortunately, my motion to regulate excessive sound originating from the discharge of firearms near residential subdivisions did not pass on a 5 to 4 vote. I would like to thank my colleagues, Supervisors Juli Briskman, Matt Letourneau, and Mike Turner, for their support, and I would like to thank all of those who e-mailed or called about this issue, including Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk, Vice-Mayor Marty Martinez and Town Council member Neil Steinberg.

Annual Halloween Parade

The Halloween Parade organized by the Kiwanis Club of Leesburg will be different in 2020. With COVID-19, it is not safe to have thousands lining King Street for the parade. Instead the parade will come to neighborhoods around Leesburg during the day on Halloween so everyone can practice social distancing. The Kiwanis Club will reach as

many neighborhoods as possible given the goal of two 3-hour parades on Halloween, one each in the morning and afternoon to different neighborhoods). Here are the details so far:

- It will be much shorter-only 8 vehicles (pending Town approval), which will include some decorated vehicles and the Nalls Farm giant pumpkin.
- No tossing candy or anything else.
- No food collection for Loudoun Hunger Relief, but Kiwanis is working on collecting food another way.
- People can follow the parade's progress on the GYMPSE app (Town public affairs will broadcast the link).

For complete details and to sign up to be one of only five decorated vehicles in the parade, please see the [Kiwanis parade website](#). Thanks for your understanding.



Blasting for Crosstrail Boulevard Extension

Residents in Village Walk, Kincaid Forest and Tavistock Farms can expect blasting to continue into the month of October to extend Crosstrail Boulevard (please see project details at the website link below). The Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) is the regulatory authority for all non-quarry blasting in Loudoun County. The FMO currently requires that if blasting is to occur within 500 feet of any structure, the occupants must be notified that blasting will be occurring (but not the specific day). Structures that are within 150 feet must be offered a "Pre-Blast Survey". This survey is typically conducted by a third party engineering firm. The pre-blast survey is offered to document the existing condition of the structure and can assist the property owner should damage occur.

Please also know that while blast noise and vibration can be held to non-damaging levels, it is normal for the blasts to be heard and felt, sometimes for considerable distances depending upon the local geology and weather conditions. The human body can sense ground vibrations at levels that are less than 1/100th of that necessary to cause even minor damage to structures.

[Blasting complaint procedures](#) are on the FMO's website. Please utilize this whenever you have a blasting concern. The FMO takes blasting and the safety of residents very seriously. Every blasting complaint that the FMO receives is thoroughly investigated.

[Crosstrail Boulevard Extension website](#)

Joint Committee

I serve as the Co-Chair of the Joint Board of Supervisors and School Board Committee (Joint Committee) with Denise Corbo, At-Large School Board member. The mission of this committee is to foster communication between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board for the betterment of Loudoun County as a whole through informative and cooperative joint meetings. Below are the goals we will be working on during this Board's term.

1. To provide transparency and promote mutual understanding between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board governing groups.
2. To promote a joint culture of learning and continuous improvement for both our County and our Schools.
3. To provide at the joint meetings, the opportunity for community participation.
4. To conscientiously promote equity for all.

Public input is encouraged at our Joint Committee meetings which are scheduled on Mondays at 3:30 pm. Due to the ongoing pandemic, meetings will be conducted electronically. To sign up for electronic public input, please call (703) 777-0200 no later than noon the day of the meeting. Instructions will be provided to individuals who sign up for electronic public input prior to the meeting. The Board room remains open for members of the public who wish to view the meeting in-person. The following is the meeting schedule for the rest of the year (we alternate locations between the LCPS Administration Building and the County Government Center).

- October 19th at the LCPS Administration Building in Ashburn.
 - Agenda items: Updates on technology in schools and broadband access in the County, joint equity and inclusion initiative, and protocol for LCPS staff attendance at meetings.
- December 7th at the Government Center in Leesburg.

Route 15 North

This is a reminder that a virtual public input meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm about Route 15 North widening from Battlefield Parkway to Montesor Road. Materials are available to review at the project website link below.

[Route 15 North website](#)

In September, Loudoun County was again recognized as one of the most technologically advanced County governments in the United States. Loudoun is ranked among the top ten in its population category in a national survey conducted by the Center for Digital Government and the National Association of Counties. Congratulations to Loudoun and all the [2020 Digital Counties Survey Winners!](#)

Warm Regards,

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Business of the Month



Jerry's Leesburg Collision:

We know that you have high expectations when it comes to your automobile being repaired correctly and our staff is ready to accommodate your needs. Our shop is conveniently located off Route 7 in Leesburg and we serve many customers in Loudoun County, including Sterling, Ashburn, Dulles, Hamilton, Purcellville, Dulles and Lovettsville. Visit our website to request a free no-obligation [estimate](#).



Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

It's fall and a gorgeous time to get out and enjoy the Town of Leesburg. The Town of Leesburg's outdoor dining program, which began July 31st, will now take place every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and has been extended through November 8th. Outdoor dining hours will be Friday and Saturday from 4 pm to 10 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm, weather permitting. The street will shut down 30 minutes prior to the event. Customers will not be allowed to congregate in the street and must maintain proper social distancing at all times. There will be no live performances or other outdoor entertainment, however, customers are encouraged to visit downtown shops while waiting to dine. We've been very fortunate with the weather. I hope you'll be able to take advantage.



Please note, improvements to the alley way, located between China King and Merrill Lynch, have begun. Work will take place every Sunday through Thursday between the hours of 9 pm and 7 am through mid-October. Improvements involve a new concrete slab, drainage, and gate. The alley will be closed during the entire project.

Another related project, involves the relocation of a gas main under the intersection of Market and King streets. Washington Gas is conducting the work as part of the Market and King Street intersection improvements project. The intersection will be closed and traffic will be detoured. Work will take place between the hours of 7 pm and 7 am, Sunday through Thursday. The entire project is expected to be completed by November 25th, weather permitting. For more details regarding this project, visit this [website](#).

The fall bulk leaf pickup resumes October 19th. Because leaf volume varies significantly throughout the season there is no set schedule for leaf collection. Town crews will attempt to collect leaves from every street once per week but routes may take up to 10 business days. Inclement weather or a heavy fall of leaves may delay collection. Final leaf pickup will be the week of December 28th and will include leaf piles placed at the curb no later than 7 am that day. After this date, leaves must be set out in yard waste cans or paper yard waste bags to be collected as trash. For more information, please visit [here](#).

Last but not least, I invite everyone to participate in the Town of Leesburg's Environmental Advisory Commission's "Keep Leesburg Beautiful" challenge on Saturday, October 17th. The annual campaign, which allows the public to get involved in cleaning the Town, normally takes place during the month of April. Due to COVID-19, the original spring clean-up was cancelled. Residents, community groups, and businesses are encouraged to participate in the upcoming challenge by conducting their own trash clean-up activity. At the conclusion of the challenge, participants will be encouraged to post a selfie with the trash they collected to either the Town's Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram page using the hashtag #KeepLeesburgBeautiful. The Town of Leesburg will provide safety vests, gloves, and trash bags, which can be picked up at the Liberty Street parking lot on the day of the event between 9 and 10 am. To avoid unnecessary interaction and congregation of participants, a drive-through will be set up. Please visit the Town of Leesburg's [website](#) for details about how to participate.





Update from Beth Barts

Many thanks to the Leesburg families who have reached out to share their frustrations and struggles with the start of the 2020-21 school year. I have always believed that parents need to advocate for their children, and these challenging times prove no exception. Advocating for families is my top priority. As we work together, the result will be the best possible education and experience for our children.

LCPS is working toward bringing all students back to school safely and honoring the mitigation strategies the residents of Loudoun County have put into place to protect its residents. LCPS started the school year with 900 MATA students in-person once a week. This has been successful in allowing us to see what safety protocols work and how we can continue to transition to in-person learning for all. It has also set the stage for many of our special education students including early childhood and self-contained programs to return **October 13th** and some of our English Language Learners to return to school on **October 27th**. Furthermore, the School Board unanimously voted to approve Stage 2 of the Superintendent's Hybrid Implementation Plan – Kindergarten through 2nd Grade will begin on **October 27th** for families who have selected the hybrid option. We hope to see higher grades back into the classrooms gradually through this semester and at the beginning of the 2nd semester.

I'm pleased to tell you that the School Board unanimously passed proclamations for Disability History and Awareness Month and National Hispanic Heritage Month during the month of September.

Over 1.8 million meals have been served through the LCPS meal delivery service! Thank you to our incredible nutrition staff and bus drivers who have made this possible. Also, many thanks to Loudoun Hunger Relief – this partnership has made it possible for our children to be ready to learn each day.

Thank you again for working with me to achieve the best possible outcome for our children. Please continue to reach out and share your concerns at Beth.Barts@lcps.org. I promise to do the same. Be well.

Community Information



Make a plan and vote: Early in-person voting started on September 18th at the Loudoun County Elections Office, 750 Miller Drive, SE in Leesburg. The last day to vote early in-person is Saturday, October 31st. If you **vote at home**, the deadline to request a ballot is October 23rd at 5:00 pm. You can drop it off at the Office of Elections, 750 Miller Drive, SE in Leesburg or at any of the early voting sites during their operating hours. If you mail your ballot, make sure it is postmarked by November 3rd and received by November 6th at noon.

The Office of Elections and Public Affairs prepared communications to address confusion surrounding absentee ballots. Absentee ballots for the November 3rd election do not require witness signatures; this requirement has been waived. Additional clarifications are provided in this **news release**.



VOTE!

VOTE BY MAIL

Stay safe and vote at home! All registered voters in Virginia are now eligible to vote by mail, no excuse required. Request your ballot today at vote.elections.virginia.gov

VOTE EARLY IN-PERSON

Early In-person voting, no excuse required, will be available at the following locations, dates and times:

Office of Elections, Leesburg, VA

Beginning Friday, September 18:

- Monday through Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, October 17 through Saturday, October 31:

- Saturdays – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Thursday – 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Ridgetop Office Building, Sterling, VA & Dulles South Senior Center, South Riding, VA:

Saturday, October 17 through Saturday, October 31:

- Saturdays – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Thursday – Noon to 8 p.m.

Carver Senior Center, Purcellville, VA:

Saturdays ONLY:
October 17, October 24, October 31 – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[Free HOA Webinar on Planning and Managing Common Open Space:](#) This virtual event is Saturday, October 24th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Looking for a holistic approach to make your community's landscaping more sustainable? Join us for an engaging and free session on ecologically sustainable community master planning and land management. You know the value of native plants, trees, and sustainable landscaping techniques. But now what? What can you do to begin working with your HOA or Condo Association to encourage them to take the next steps in investing in this approach? Please register [here](#).

[Parks, Recreation and Community Services Master Planning Process:](#) The goal of the planning process will be a five to 10-year vision for parks, recreation, open space and trails. Community input is a key component to developing a comprehensive parks and recreation system plan. Over the next several months, you will have several opportunities to participate. Virtual workshops will be held to provide opportunities for input and a

random sampling of County residents will be conducted to participate in a statistically valid survey. In addition, we invite you to share your comments, suggestions and ideas with the master planning team using this [online form](#). The project duration is 12 months with an anticipated completion date of fall 2021.

Leesburg District | 1 Harrison St, S.E., 5th Floor, Leesburg, VA 20175

[About our service provider](#)

Sent by kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov powered by

